

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 191800
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:MDRAPER:PDW

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:HHSAUDERS

S/S FWISNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

SECRET STATE 191800

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS; FOR AMB. LEWIS FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), IS, LE, MILI

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR BEGIN

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO PRIME
MINISTER BEGIN IN RESPONSE TO HIS MESSAGE OF JULY 28
(TEXT BY SEPTEL):

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

I VERY MUCH APPRECIATED YOUR GOOD MESSAGE CONVEYING YOUR
DECISION TO DELAY THE SHIPMENT OF TANKS TO THE MARONITE
FORCES IN LEBANON UNTIL WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO TALK DURING
MY VISIT TO ISRAEL. I ALSO GREATLY APPRECIATED YOUR UNDER-
TAKING TO CONTINUE ADVISING THE MARONITE FORCES TO EXERCISE
RESTRAINT AND TO REFRAIN FROM PROVOCATIVE SNIPING. IT IS

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IMPORTANT THAT THE MARONITE FORCES NOT BE LEFT WITH THE
IMPRESSION THAT ISRAEL WILL GO TO THEIR AID IF THEY GET IN
TROUBLE WHILE CHALLENGING THE SYRIANS.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW ALSO THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN IDLE. WE
HAVE MADE FIRM REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SYRIANS, NOT ONLY IN
DAMASCUS BUT ALSO IN WASHINGTON AND WITH THE NEW SYRIAN

AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS AND SAM LEWIS WILL KEEP YOU AND MEMBERS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT REGULARLY INFORMED OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS.

I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU TO DISCUSS WITH YOU THE LEBANON PROBLEM AND OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES. I BELIEVE WE COULD AGREE ON THE KIND OF STABLE, PEACEFUL LEBANON WE WANT TO SEE EMERGE FROM THE CHAOS OF THESE PAST FEW YEARS, AND WE WANT TO WORK CLOSELY AND COOPERATIVELY WITH YOU TO HELP MAKE THAT POSSIBLE.

WITH WARM GOOD WISHES, SINCERELY, CYRUS VANCE.
END TEXT. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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ISecure: 2
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